

I used to think
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method above out-
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op come from late

G. Z. SMITH.

to do this neatly, and at the same time quickly, we
use a corn horse and tie each stook near the top with
binder twine. In stooking corn fodder great care
should be taken that the shocks are upright and
evenly balanced, and not too small, otherwise they
will lean badly and collect snow, making it difficult
to handle.

If properly built these stooks can be drawn to the
barn as required during the winter, but it is difficult
to store in large quantities it heats quickly in the
mow or stack and soon spoils.

Corn can however be made into ensilage a few days
after cutting and stored safely even during our coldest
winters. We simply cut the corn as for fodder, but
leave it on the ground for a few days until some of the
excess of moisture is driven off, when it is run through
the cutting box into the silo and well trampled.
From ten to fifty pounds of this silage is fed per day
to each animal, and it is as near winter pasturage as we
can get in this country.—Address before Dairy Con-
vention, M.A.C., Feb. 18th, S. A. Bedford, Prof. Field
Husbandry, M.A.C.

HORTICULTURE

Growing Garden Crop

In walking over the garden on the 6th of
May, little growth could be seen. There was
still considerable frost in places, and weed-seeds
were barely commencing to send their hardy
sprouts above ground. I found a few rhubarb
leaves above the surface, larkspurs, lychnis,
columbines, iris, and other hardy flowers, were
only to be found by brushing away the litter
that covered them. I had planted no seeds yet.
Perennial onions had made so little growth that
none could be found that promised a mess for the
table inside of two weeks.

Two years ago weather conditions were much
the same as now, yet we succeeded in having a
very good crop of common vegetables. We
must not be quite discouraged because the
spring is late. I planted no seeds that year
until the 13th of May. This was quite different
from the spring of 1905, when on April 7th I
sowed seeds of several varieties of vegetables, and
was planting potatoes by the 1st of May.

We are fully a month later than usual this
year; so we must not look for very wonderful
results from our efforts at gardening. But there
is one thing we can do—do the best we can to
supply our tables this year, and get everything in
shape to grow a bumper crop next season. We
seldom have two bad seasons in succession.
Such cold springs as this, with so little snow and
such heavy frosts, are hard on perennials of all
kinds. The plants that endure such severe tests
may be depended upon. Let us take notice
then, and jot down in our notes the varieties of
vegetables, fruits, and flowers that have lived
over winter.

Rhubarb is one of these. Nothing in the way
of hard frosts kills it. A few words on its culture
may not be amiss, as people often say they can-
not grow it. In my opinion it is one of the easiest
plants to handle. Roots may be bought easily,
and if this is done, they should be set in deeply
plowed soil. Allow at least four feet apart each
way for the plants. Hoe them often, and dig in
a little good manure each summer. Or if roots
are not available, rhubarb may be easily and
cheaply grown from seed. It takes three years
for the plant to grow to size for cooking. Plant
the seeds in June, watering carefully. They

may be sown in rows one foot apart, and the
young plants allowed to grow within three inches
of one another. Leave them where they started
for the first winter. As soon as the ground is
thawed out in spring, move the roots to their
permanent location. The first year's roots will
be found to be long fleshy "tap" roots, like small
parsnips in shape, but smooth and dark colored.
Cultivate well this year, and if the plants grow
well, they will produce stalks fit for cooking the
following summer. It is best not to cut the
plants very closely at first. Rhubarb goes to
seed easily. If you have only a few plants, and
wish to increase your supply cheaply, allow one
of the earliest flower-stalks to grow and ripen.
These seeds may be planted as soon as ripe; and a
fine bed of young plants be thus raised. At
times rhubarb is killed by a disease that appears
like "rust". As yet no real cure has been found.
The best way is to start a new supply, and plant
them out on new, well-worked soil. Dig and
burn all affected plants.

Asparagus is a sure crop here. It is surprising
to find many people who do not know what
asparagus is. This delicate vegetable should be
set one foot apart in the rows, and the rows at
least two feet apart, to allow of thorough culti-
vation. It needs little other care. It requires no
winter protection, though it is as well to leave the
old stalks standing until cultivation commences.
They will help to gather and hold the snow.
Once established an asparagus bed will last for
years. We have a bed that must have been
planted at least fifteen years ago. It has been
over-run by brome grass, yet each spring we
gather asparagus amongst the grass. Asparagus
is easily grown from seed. Like rhubarb it takes
three years to grow large enough to use. The
first year the seedlings are very tiny, and it is easy
to overlook them. The seeds are in the form of
pretty red berries. These are firm, and hold on
to the stalk well. The stalks may be cut before
severe frost comes. If dried the leaves retain
their deep green, and the berries their bright
scarlet, all winter. When old and very dry the
leaves drop off at a slight touch. In this land
where evergreens are hard to procure, asparagus
tops may be used for winter decoration.

Celery is a much misunderstood plant, rarely
seen on a farmer's table. The seed should be
sown, as a rule, about May 15th, in drills six feet
apart. The seed may be sown rather thickly,
and great care should be taken to cover it lightly
but firmly in moist soil. Choose a low part of the
garden for celery. When the plants are four
inches high, and are thinned out so they stand six
inches apart in the row, commence to draw the
earth toward them. Continue to hill them up as
they grow, always doing this work when the
ground is dry. They should not be put in the
cellar till very cold weather sets in. Light frosts
will not hurt celery.

Unless extra early cabbage is desired, no hot-
bed need be used for starting the plants. The
seed may be sown in drills in the open garden,
before May 24th. The drills should be three feet
apart. After the plants put on three or four
leaves, thin them out till they stand 18 inches
apart in the rows. Frequent hoeing all summer
drawing the earth toward the plants, will insure a
good stand of firm heads. If cutworms are
troublesome take four gallons of bran, half a cup
of brown sugar, 1 level teaspoonful Paris Green
and water enough to make the Paris Green adhere
to the bran. Mix all together thoroughly, and
sprinkle thinly over the garden after sundown.

Be very careful not to leave any large heaps of it
that may attract the birds in the morning. Paris
Green is a deadly poison. The cut-worms will
eat the mixture at night and die.

When turnips first appear, watch them to see
if they are being eaten by a tiny, black, shiny
insect. If they are attacked, loose no time in
dusting the rows all over with fine ashes, lime or
soot. As soon as the turnips get the second
leaves, the "turnip flies" will not injure them.

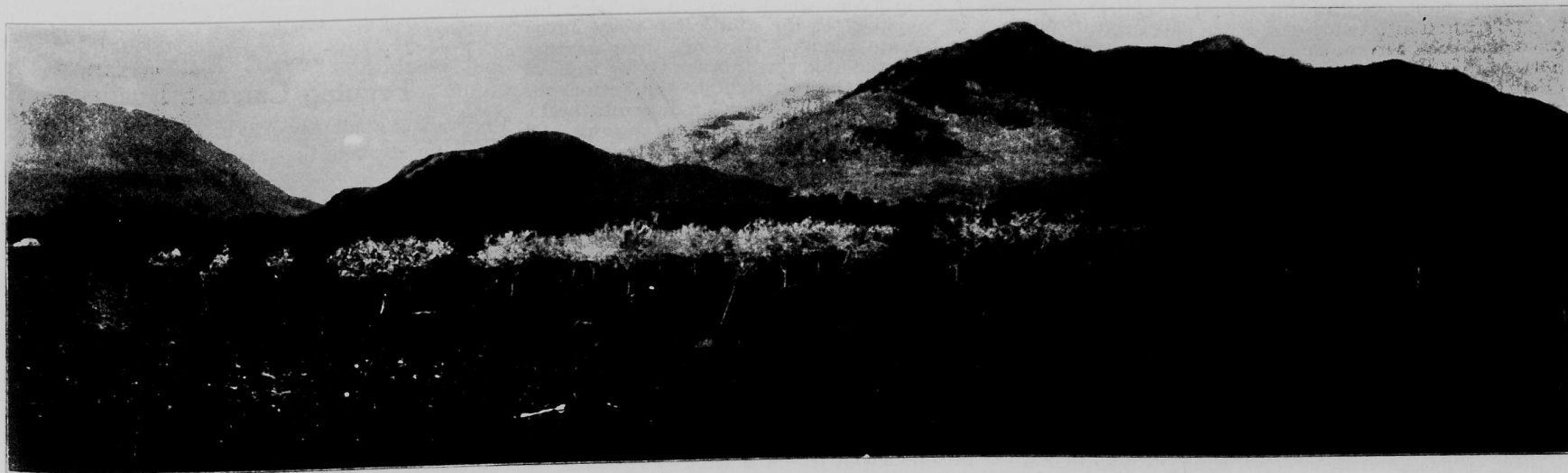
We almost invariably have a frost on the night
of the first full moon in June. It is best not to
transplant any tender plants such as tomatoes
until after that date, even if it seems late. If
the frost is as severe as it often has been, it will
cut down wax beans, squash, citrons, pumpkins,
marrows, cucumbers, and perhaps corn. It is
safe to plant these seeds about six days before the
full moon. They will then germinate and be
above ground a few days after the frost. If
planted much earlier, a reserve supply of seeds
should be kept for a possible re-sowing.

Tomatoes should be budding for flowers when
transplanted to the open garden. They should
be set deeply, down to the first branches. The
hole should be filled with water before covering
with earth. No water should be given after-
wards. If the sun is shining hot, shade the
plants with shingles set on three side of the plant.
Tin cans, such as some people use, exclude too
much air, to my thinking. When the plants
form flower-clusters, allow only two clusters to
grow on each branch. Pinch off the ends of the
branches to prevent more flowers forming.
The plants grow rapidly, and should be pinched
back at least every second day. The whole
strength of the plant will thus go to forming fruit,
and the chances are that they will bear ripe
tomatoes as well as green ones. A rather dry
soil matures the fruit fastest.

About the first of June prepare to plant seeds
of the squash kind. For all these, we have found
the following method to be the surest. We first
dig holes two feet square and eighteen inches
deep. These holes we fill fifteen inches deep with
fresh, moist, strawless horse manure, lightly
packed. The hole is then filled full of nice soil,
and the seeds are planted and well watered, from
six to twelve seeds, according to variety, may be
planted in each hill. They should come up in
about eight days. If the weather is very dry,
and water is needed, make a hole in the ground
near the plant, and let the water soak into the
roots from that. A good way is to make the
hills larger across than I said, set a leaky tin pail
full of manure in the centre of the hill, and plant
the seeds around it. Water thrown on the pile
of manure will soak through slowly, and take
with it much plant food from the manure as it
goes.

All the squash tribe must be fertilized by hand
in this country. They bear two kinds of flowers,
pistillate and staminate. The pistillate flowers
are the ones with the small fruit at the base of the
blossom. They will dry up and drop off unless
the pistil is touched with the yellow powder or
pollen from the staminate flowers. In some
countries bees do this work, but bees are scarce
here. It is best to break off the stamens and rub
the pistils lightly with them. The pollen will
adhere to the sticky top of the pistil, and the
"setting" of the fruit will be assured. Ten
o'clock in the morning is the best time for this
work.

One thing should be emphasized: Never
sprinkle water on the surface of the ground in



T. RICHTER'S ORCHARD OF THIRTY ACRES AT KEREMEOS B. C., IN THE SIMILKAMEEN VALLEY

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